Chasing Hearts

Posted originally on the Archive of Our Own at https://archiveofourown.org/works/60745195.

Rating:	Not Rated
Archive Warning:	Creator Chose Not To Use Archive Warnings
Categories:	F/M, Other
Fandom:	Sonic the Hedgehog - All Media Types
Relationships:	Espio the Chameleon/Rouge the Bat, Rouge the bat/Espio the chameleon, Silver the Hedgehog/Sonic the Hedgehog
Characters:	Espio the Chameleon, Rouge the Bat, Sonic the Hedgehog, Silver the Hedgehog
Additional Tags:	Espouge, Established Relationship, Romantic Fluff, Other Additional Tags to Be Added, Side Sonilver, side relationship
Language:	English
Stats:	Published: 2024-11-21 Words: 10,957 Chapters: 1/?

Chasing Hearts

by Lilcookiebug

Summary

Espio and Rouge hit the town to have a nice date to themselves. And things start out pretty well and they end up having a lot of fun!

Yet they can't help but feel like something is wrong..?

Notes

See the end of the work for notes

Chapter 1: A date to remember

The sound of the alarm that sat on the side bedside table was the thing to wake the white bat. Her groaning a bit and tossing in the soft blanket that laid on the bed. Her ear twitching at the loud blaring sound next to her, with her stretching her hand out from the blankets and eventually tapped the button that silenced the noise. Giving a sigh of relief when her ears weren't being violated by the sound anymore.

Stretching out her arms, the bat got up from the bed. Slipping her paws in the fluffy pink bunny slippers that rested near the bed, matching her fluffy pink pajamas perfectly. She stretched out her wings and rubbed her eyes while yawning. Before looking at the alarm clock that woke her up in the first place.

10:15 AM is the time that showed up on the interface of the small clock.

Rubbing her eyes again, she looked around the room. When she noticed the other side of the soft pink bed was empty. She then walked over to the bed and carefully adjusted the blankets to be neat again.

It being clear to her that her partner was already awake before her.

That's when her ear perked up, when she heard the door to the bedroom slowly creak open. Revealing a small light brown face with playful blue eyes. And a small but bubblegum pink nose. Letting out a small happy meow as the visitor greeted one of its owners.

"Mocha! Good morning little lady." The bat exclaimed, bending down to pet the small cat. Who gave another happy meow in response. Her showing off her light pink collar with pride.

The bat then sniffed the air, noticing it having a sight fruity and pastry hint to it. Her eyes lit up and she snapped her fingers.

Knowing exactly what and who was behind the smell.

Leaving the bedroom, she carefully walked down the stairs. And quietly sneaked into the kitchen, where a focused but unsuspecting fuchsia chameleon was behind the stove.

Approaching the chameleon, the bat suddenly wrapped her arms around him. And gave him a few kisses on his cheek, which made the chameleon immediately turn into a hot pink color. It spreading across his scales immediately.

"Rouge! Good morning to you I suppose!" The chameleon exclaimed, barely catching the pan he almost dropped.

The bat giggled "Good morning handsome! How's my little ninja doing?" Rouge said in a flirty tone, while continuing to peck his cheek.

“I’m well. How did you sleep?” Espio asked, continuing to focus on what he was doing before Rouges surprise kisses.

“I slept amazingly just like always when with you.” Rouge responded with.

Espio nodded and smiled, continuing to work on the dish he was cooking. While Rouge continued to have her arms around the shorter male. Watching as he began to pour a sort of batter onto the pan he was holding.

“What are you cooking today? Pancakes?” Rouge asked.

“Mhm. I thought you’d enjoy a classic for breakfast today.”

Rouges eyes lit up, she always loved Espios pancakes. Well, she loved all his cooking in general no matter what it was. Since she couldn’t cook herself that much.

The bat stepped away from the chameleon, letting him continue to cook the delicious smelling pancakes. And went over to the cupboards and starting pulling out plates and cups. Walking over to the small two people table in the room, she set the table for the both of them. Before sitting down and waiting for the food to be served. With her grabbing the newspaper that was lying on the table, and opening it up to read it.

“Anything interesting today?” Espio asked, using a spatula to flip over a pancake.

“Just the regular disappearances awareness thing. And some ads that totally aren’t scams.” Rouge responded with, flipping through the newspaper scanning the words of each page.

“The agency lately has been hired to look in a few of those.” Espio sighed “Just a shame we don’t have that many clues to go off of. Been stumped for weeks..”

“Well that’s because you’ve been stuck in that stuffy office! You need some fresh air! Some time to relax honey..” Rouge remarked, putting the newspaper back on the table.

There was a few moments of silence between them, Espio working on the pancakes. Trying his best not to accidentally burn himself in any way. While also trying to keep his thoughts about the cases at bay. Whole Rouge sat at the table tapping her fingers against the table. Patiently waiting for the food to arrive.

Eventually, Espio moved away from the stove after turning it off. And walked over to the table with a plate filled with freshly made pancakes. Placing it down on the table, he took two plates and started decorating the dishes. Placing pieces of chopped up fruit ,some whipped cream, and drizzling maple syrup all over the plate. He finally finished putting together the plates, and placed one of them infront of Rouge. And sat down across from her with his own.

“Wow honey, I think you’ve outdone yourself this time! This looks absolutely delicious!” Rouge exclaimed, taking her fork and taking a bite of the treat infront of her.

Espio blushed a bit “Thank you Rouge. I always try to put my all into anything I create. To give the best product possible.” He stated, taking a bit of his own pancakes.

Rouge swallowed a bit of pancake and nodded “This is absolutely divine. This is why I always leave the cooking to you. My talented and handsome little ninja~” she said, with a wink to the already flustered chameleon.

“Oh…I'm very flattered Rouge. I only want to make sure my lovely girlfriend has a amazing breakfast everyday..” Espio says with a soft smile, trying to not draw attention to the blush spreading across his muzzle.

Rouge giggled and continued to eat her food. With Espio doing the same. Savoring the sweet and fluffy taste of the pancakes, and tartness of the fruit paired with it. The two of them continuing to enjoy their lovely meal together. With small little Mocha eating out of her own cat bowl next to the table. Where her two owners were enjoying their own breakfast with her.

After some time, Rouge cleared her throat. And looked over at Espio who was paying attention to her.

“So…you know what today is right honey?” Rouge asked, playing with a strawberry on her plate.

Espio tilted his head to the side “It’s Wednesday correct?” He replied, taking a napkin and wiping his mouth.

“Yes…but what did you promise to do with me last week on Wednesday?” Rouge questioned him, with a hint of playfulness to her voice.

“What I promised last week…” Espio wondered, tapping his finger on the table. Before turning his head to glance at the calendar that hung on the wall. Squinting his eyes, he scanned the paper until he spotted the square that was the days date.

Circled in pink with hearts surrounding it, there was bold pink letters written on the date. Reading the following: “City Date with Espio and Rouge!!”

Espio then blinked his eyes, before looking back over at Rouge. Who was patiently waiting for the chameleon to answer her question.

“I promised to take you out for the whole day in the city.” Espio finally answered.

Rouge clapped her hands “Correct! Today you and me are going out and having some fun!” She exclaimed, with slight stars in her eyes.

Espio softly chuckled while standing up to collect their dishes. But when he picked up Rouges dish, he suddenly paused.

“Wait..but I didn’t tell Vector and Charmy about it-“

“No buts mister. You promised me. And I know your policy on promises.” Rouge interrupted the chameleon with, standing in front of him. And leaning to meet his face.

“And besides, I’m sure they won’t mind you missing one day of work. You deserve to have a break to clear your mind.” Rouge continued, moving the plates down from his face.

“I suppose…it’s just they’ve been having a hard time adjusting to me not being in the house anymore. Since I live with you now...” Espio trailed off, reaching the sink and starting to wash the dishes.

“Just call them up and let them know you won’t be there today.” Rouge then snapped her fingers “Or I can just leave a message for them.”

“I can do it-“

“Nope. I’ll do it honey. Just focus on doing the dishes and then go up and get dressed. And I’ll go after you. I’ll take care of it for you!” Rouge cut him off quickly with.

“Are you sure you’ll be able to handle whoever answers?”

“I’m sure. Now no more worrying! You promised me a date today mister.” Rouge stated again.

Espio gave a sigh “And I gave it my ninjas honor….” He pauses before continuing again “Alright. I’ll let you take care of it.”

The bat then watched as the chameleon finished up washing the dishes. And then headed up the stairs to go get dressed for their date. With Rouge giggling excitedly, with her tail wagging at extreme speeds. Her dashing over to the house phone that was in the living room, picking it up and sitting down on the couch.

Dialing the number to the detective agency, she sat there patiently waiting for someone to pick up.

“Chaotix Detective Agency. How may we assist you?” A rough male voice answered on the other end.

Rouge cleared her throat “Yes hello Vector, this is Rouge. Espios girlfriend to call in to say he won’t be at work today.”

There was a moment of silence, before the voice came back “Espio won’t be here today? How come? Did something happen to him?”

“Oh no no. He’s quite alright and completely fine. Jsit he promised to take me out on a date today for the whole day. So he’s not going to be able to work today.” Rouge answered the crocodile rather quickly.

“I see…well thank you for letting us know. Hope you two have fun.” Vector replied.

“Oh he definitely will. He’ll probably be back tomorrow. He just deserves a little break to clear his head.” Rouge remarked.

“That’s fine. I know he’s been hung up on the recent cases a lot lately. He deserves the break.”

“Mhm he definitely does. Anyways thanks Vector. Tell Charmy I said hello. And bye!” Rouge quickly hangs up before hearing the crocs response. Putting down the phone and giggling excitedly. Her being so excited to spend the whole day with her lovely boyfriend.

That’s when she noticed Espio walking down the stairs all dressed. Him wearing a bluish purple sweater. With a moon print on the front of it. A small flower clip placed on the side of his head. A gift she gave him for their first anniversary a few weeks ago.

“I’m all ready. You can go up and get dressed now.” Espio said, trying to adjust his sleeves. Them seeming to be rolled up.

“Alright. I’ll go do that now. Wait here.” Rouge replied, giving him a quick peck on the cheek. And then heading up the stairs to get dressed.

Rushing over to their wardrobe, Rouge started scrolling through the many outfits she has. Trying to decide the best outfit to wear for this date.

“This one is too formal. This one too flashy. Too revealing and not needed…” Rouge mumbled, while continuing to scroll through the outfits.

She finally came across a light pink sweater with a heart pattern, with a matching light yellow skirt. With matching shoes to go along perfectly with the outfit.

“Perfect! He’ll love this for sure!” Rouge exclaimed, pulling the outfit out of the closet. And quickly putting it on. Before staring at herself in the mirror they had in the room. Feeling confident and comfortable in the outfit she picked out.

“Now then…makeup and hair time!~” She remarked, sitting down at the white vanity table. She opened up the drawers and picked out a few eyeshadow cases. And opened them trying to look for the perfect shade to use. Before tapping on a peachish pink shade. And picked up her brush and started to apply it to her eyelids.

She then grabbed some lipgloss of similar color, and applied it to her lips. Being careful not to smudge it at all. The sparkles enhancing her lips, and making them shine in the warm light.

“Now…is that all? Hm…something is missing..” Rouge pondered aloud, tapping her finger against the wood.

“Oh! I know.” She then opened up another drawer and pulled out a light yellow scrunchie. And tied her hair in a side ponytail. Then grabbing her hairbrush and styling the tuff of hair on top to be very bouncy and curly. With the final touch being a pair of gold heart earrings.

“Perfect! I’m definitely ready now!” She exclaimed, putting away her makeup and things. And then heading down the stairs. To greet her lover and show him the look she chose to have for their date together today.

“Espio!~ How do I look?” Rouge asked, stopping at the end of the stairs. While striking a very flirty pose at the chameleon. Who looked up to greet her.

“Wow…you look absolutely gorgeous dearest..” Espio replied, a blush starting to form on his muzzle. With him not even trying to hide how much found his lover beautiful. With Rouge giving a soft giggle in response.

“Ready to go now handsome?” Rouge then asked Espio, who was still blushing a ton.

Espio then blinked eyes and shook his head, before clearing his throat “Ah yes. I’m ready to go now.” He responded, fiddling with his sleeves again.

“What’s wrong with your sleeves?” Rouge asked.

“Oh nothing. They just can’t go over the cuffs well.” Espio replied, pointing to the large cuffs he usually wore that carried variants of ninja weaponry.

“Espio honey…we’re just going on a date. You don’t have to bring your weapons. I’m sure everything will be fine.”

“I know…I just want to be safe is all. It never hurts to have safety precautions just in case.” Espio stated, finally adjusting the sleeve to where it covered the cuffs to where it was comfortable.

Rouge looked him with a look of curiosity, before finally sighing and shrugging her shoulders. Just deciding to let her boyfriend go with the logic. Since she knows how cautious he can be with everything.

“Alright if you say so Espio. Let’s get going now.” Rouge said, taking his hand in hers. And starting to lead him out of the front door. With the shorter chameleon following her with no protesting.

After getting into her white and pink car, Rouge pulled out the driveway. Moving through the street of the quiet neighborhood, she glanced at Espio.

“So where are we going first? You do have a plan right?”

“Of course. A ninja like myself must always be prepared for any kind of situation.” Espio reaches into his pocket and pulls out a small sheet of paper. Filled with his neat handwriting, detailing the plan he had laid out for them.

“First, we are going to a local cafe.” Espio discreetly said.

“A cafe? Didn’t we just have breakfast honey?” Rouge asked, continuing to drive calmly.

“Yes. But we need to have some hot chocolate and warm treats before going to the first activity I have planned.” Espio replied, continuing to look over his list.

“Alright, I’ll trust your word honey.” Rouge said, starting to steer the car towards their first destination.

Espio than started to give the directions to the cafe, Rouge driving along and turning when she was told to. Until they finally reached their destination, which was a small but comfy

cafe. With light yellow walls and a peach roof.

Parking the car in a spot, the bat and chameleon got out of the car. Rouge using her keys to lock it, and then followed the chameleon into the building.

The interior of the place was very cozy and had soft retro 90s feel to it. With the bright pops of colors lining the walls and intricate decoration. With the furniture that looked like what you'd find in a traditional 90s diner in one of those old school films. With a yellow and pink bunny being behind the counter, reading a magazine.

Espio cleared his throat and walked up to the counter, tapping on the small gold bell that sat there. With the rabbit peeking up their ears, looking up to greet the chameleon.

"Oh Espio! Nice to see ya again." The rabbit responded cheerfully, putting their magazine down to face him. And then glanced over to the white bat that stood next to him, that was holding the chameleons hand. While glancing around the place with a look of fascination.

"Oh who's this lady? A friend?" The rabbit asked.

"This is my girlfriend Rouge. We've been together for a year now." Espio answered, blushing softly.

"Ohhhh girlfriend! Well hiya Rouge! Welcome to the PeachSpin Cafe! Where we serve all sorts of wacky and delicious treats for anyone to enjoy!" The rabbit said proudly, taking off their hat and posing.

"Well aren't you a dear? Thank you for the greeting!" Rouge replied, giving a soft chuckle.

Espio cleared his throat "Thank you Sorbet, it's always a pleasure of coming here because of your presence."

"Aweeee shucks Espio. Just trying to be a friendly and kind rabbit as much as possible! For this place is supposed to make you smile!" Sorbet replied, hugging their ears a bit.

Sorbet then shook their head, and clicked a button on the counter. Which made a small yellow and white striped screen appear from the counter. The screen Turning on to reveal the menu.

"So what will it be for you lovely lovebirds? I'm pretty sure it won't be the usual thing for you today Espio."

"Oh no. I won't be having any coffee today. We'll be taking two hot chocolates and two fresh cinnamon rolls." Espio replied.

"Alrighty! Two hot chocolates and two fresh and hot cinnamon rolls." Sorbet repeated, writing down the order.

"Oh! Can we have a few danishes as well? I especially love the fruit ones." Rouge asked, pointing to a spot on the menu.

“Sure! We have a deal to get a basket of them. You get to pick out 6 danishes.”

“We’ll have that as well then. And I think that’ll be all.” Espio said.

“Two hot chocolates, two cinnamon rolls, and a basket of danishes. Is that correct?” Sorbet asked, looking up at the couple to check if they wrote the correct order down.

“Yes. That all sounds correct.” Espio answered the rabbit, continuing to hold Rouges hand tightly.

“Okay! Have a seat and I’ll be right back with those treats! And since you brought your lover here. You get an extra sweet discount!”

“Discount?”

“Yep! We have a thing where if you bring your lover here with you. We give a discount.” Sorbet replied.

“Well ain’t that a special thing?” Rouge remarked, moving closer to Espio. Who started blushing more.

“Yeah…” Espio then took a deep breath “Thank you Sorbet. We’ll go sit down then.”

Espio then led Rouge over to a booth that had soft chairs. Sitting down next to each other, with Espio up against the window. He held Rouges hand in his tightly, the warmth being extremely comforting to him.

“This is such a charming little place! We should go here more often honey.” Rouge remarked, continuing to look around the place.

“I’m glad you enjoy it so much. I come here to get my daily coffee before going to the detective agency.” Espio replied to her, giving a soft smile.

After a few minutes, Sorbet came over to the table with two hot chocolates with extra whipped cream. With colorful heart sprinkles decorated on top. With the receipt taped to Espios drink. A combination of pink and purple with hearts wrote on the piece of paper was: “Espio + Rouge foreva!!”.

Which made Espio blush more, with Sorbet glancing at him with a cheeky smile. Placing down the small basket of danishes and the two large fresh and hot cinnamon rolls.

“Enjoy you two!” Sorbet called out to them, as they left to go back to the counter.

“Thank you Sorbet!” Rouge replied back to them, giving them a small wave. Before turning back to her heavily blushing boyfriend. Who just took his drink and blew on it before starting to drink it.

“Is someone flustered?~” Rouge asked in a flirty tone, which made Espio blush even more.

“A bit..” the chameleon replied, stirring his drink nervously.

Rouge leaned close to him and kissed him on the cheek “You’re really cute when your all flustered honey~”

“Oh stop it..” Espio mumbled, avoiding her eyes to continue to drink his hot chocolate in peace.

“But it’s trueee!” Rouge exclaimed.

Espio blushed even more, the only thing hiding it was the scoop of whipped cream. Which was now smeared on his face a lot. Which made Route giggle, and take a napkin and wipe his face off.

The two of them continued to drink their hot chocolate. While Rouge happily enjoyed the danishes and cinnamon rolls, Espio smiling and enjoying his girlfriend eat the delicious treats. With him having to wipe off her cheek now and again because of the crumbs that would stick to them.

After finishing their treats, Espio and Rouge cleaned up themselves. And stood up holding their trash in a bag, and walked over to the trash can. Throwing the bag away filled with trash.

“Shall we go to our next destination now?” Espio asked, holding open the door for Rouge.

“Yes. Let’s go to our next spot for the date that you have planned.” Rouge responded, giving Espio a small kiss on the cheek. Before heading off to the car with Espio following behind her.

Getting back into the car, Rouge pulled out of the parking spot. And began driving to their next destination. Espio giving directions the same way he did last time.

After some time, they finally reached their second destination. Which was a large but fancy looking building, that was decorated with many winter themed items. As if it was supposed to be an isolated magical winter wonderland.

“What is this place? I don’t think I’ve been here before.” Rouge wondered aloud, noticing parts of the windows decorated with icicle crystals that glittered in the sunlight.

“A special place. Now come on, I think you’ll enjoy this a lot.” Espio responded, getting out of the car after Rouge. And then taking her hand in his, and excitedly leading her towards the building. The winter decorations becoming more visible as they got closer.

“It’s like a giant snow globe..”

“I know. It’s beautiful isn’t it?” Espio said with a smile, leading her up to the entrance of the place.

A tall but built bear guard stood at the entrance, dressed in a nutcracker costume. Looking down at the couple approaching the entrance, he leaned down to address them.

“Names?” The bear asked in a gruff but friendly voice.

“Ah Espio and Rouge.” Espio held up two light blue sheets of paper that looked like tickets. Which the bear took and read over, before nodding and giving a smile.

“Ah yes. Come in. You can get your skates right of the entrance. Next to the gift shop, please have a magical time.” The bear said with a smile, opening up the door for the two.

“Thank you.” Espio replied back, taking Rouges hand again. He led her into the large magical building. With the bear closing the door behind them.

Rouge blinked her eyes a bit, due to the change in lighting. But her eyes widen when she opened them again.

To see the place decorated like an elegant winter themed wonderland. In the center being a large ice rink where plenty of people were skating around on the ice. With more nutcracker guards lining the place, and staff that were dressed to look like butlers and maids. But with a more wintery theme.

“Oh my..this place is absolutely..” Rouge trailed off.

“Magical? Wait til we glide onto the ice my dear.” Espio said softly, leading Rouge over to where they get their ice skates.

Behind a counter decorated with plenty of red sparkly ornaments, a red and orange raccoon stood behind the counter. Dressed in an outfit that looked like they were some sort of fairy.

“Hello hello! Welcome you two to this magical world! I’m guessing you two are here to get your skates?” The raccoon asked, looking over the couple.

Espio nodded “Yes. We need two pair of skates.”

“Alright! Just come look on the wall over here. And pick out the ones that fit you best.”

Espio and Rouge nod, and then turn to look over the wall of skates. Noticing all the different sizes and designs variety of ice skates there are. The both of them starting to look around for the pair they want.

Rouge picks out a pair of hot pink ice skates with gold accents. With Espio picking out some royal purple skates with silver accents. Picking up the skates, they both walk back over to the raccoon.

“Ah those two will look absolutely marvelous on you both! And would you two like some coats? It can get a bit cold out on the ice.” The raccoon asked.

“Sure we will take some coats. Do you have any that will match our skates?” Rouge asked, looking down at the skates in her arms.

The raccoon nodded “Of course! Here you are. Do you need any assistance with putting on the skates at all?”

“Oh no no. I think we’ll be perfectly fine. Thank you though!” Rouge responded back, waving her hand.

She then walked over to Espio, and helped him put the skates on. With him helping her as well, and placing their shoes in a cubby hole. Then slipping on the matching warm jackets. And glancing at one another after being fully ready.

Taking her hand, Espio carefully guides Rouge over into the giant ice rink. Their skates gliding a bit when they first touch the ice. Their breaths turning into a cloud of white mist when they breathe. And looking around and noticing all the happy people skating around the rink.

“Are you nervous at all?” Espio asked, bending over and holding Rouges hand tightly. Before carefully guiding Rouge to glide against the ice with him. Going at a very steady and slow pace at first. Making sure they both have good balance.

“Don’t worry. Just let your worries float away while you glide on the ice. And I won’t let you fall..” Espio continued, continuing to glide around the ice with Rouge.

Keeping his hands on her hips, he kept holding onto Rouge to make sure she was comfortable. Despite him being shorter, the skates were able to give him some height. And he was used to having such a height difference, and didn’t let it bother him at all.

They glide around the ice, with Espio holding onto her arm tightly. Eventually speeding up a bit and doing a few spins and tricks. Continuing to move along the ice with a hint of grace and elegance.

“You’re really good at this handsome.” Rouge remarked, finally being able to let go of Espios hand. And starting to skate around on the ice herself.

“It takes practice and patience.” Espio then spins around her, gliding around the ice with ease. And stopping to face her.

“But I’m sure in time you’d make a beautiful ice Queen.” He says with a smile, winking at the bat.

Rouge blushed softly at that, holding her hand to her heart. Espio flirting with her was a rare occurrence most of the time. Yet she always loved those moments that could make her blush. Reminding her all over again why she fell in love with him in the first place.

Espio then appears behind her, and holds her hands in his from behind. And started to dance with her on the ice. The two of them moving around on the ice like two angels flying through the sky and clouds. The rest of the world seeming to disappear.

“Would you say I’m your gracious ice king?” Espio then asked, holding Rouge by her waist and leaning down to look into her aqua eyes. Making her blush even more.

“You flatter me so much handsome..” Rouge replied with a dreamy tone, the blush spreading across her muzzle more. Feeling so warm and fuzzy from the attention Espio was giving her.

Normally it was her to do the flirting and flustering.

Yet she always found it engaging when they'd switch roles. And he was the one to fluster her.

It always made her heart sing.

"Yes…you would be my glorious handsome ice king…"

"And you would be my magnificent enchanting ice queen.."

The two then were about to lean in for a kiss. Their lips almost touching when-

"Woah! Look! It's Espio and Rouge! Hey guys!"

A loud but cheerful voice then made the couple look up. Noticing a bright blue hedgehog gliding towards them. Them knowing exactly who it was.

"Sonic?" The bat and chameleon asked at the same time. Them now standing up straight and looking straight at the hedgehog.

"The one and only!" Sonic exclaimed, striking a pose.

"What are you doing here?" Espio asked.

"Oh nothing much. Just out on a date with my precious marshmallow~" Sonic answered, a flirty tone slipping in at the end of the sentence.

"Marshmallow?" Rouge and Espio asked at the same time again. Making Sonic giggle a lot.

Before any of the could say anything, there was a dash of silver that zipped by the couple. With the silver blur forming into a taller hedgehog. Who spun around the couple and blue hedgehog a few times. Before stopping in his tracks right next to Sonic.

Espio and Rouge blinked their eyes a few times, before speaking again.

"Silver? You're here with Sonic? Espio asked.

"Heya Espio! And yep I'm here with Sonic. I suppose you haven't heard the news about us.." Silver trailed off.

"The news..?" Espio and Rouge ask again at the same time.

"That me and Silver are well.." Sonic blushed a bit.

"Dating." Silver answers, standing close to Sonic and taking his hand and holding it tightly.

Espio and Rouge stood there in silence for a few seconds, both of them looking down at the two holding hands. Before they both shook their heads, focusing their attention again.

"Congratulations you two." Espio said.

“Yes congrats! You two look adorable together.” Rouge added, putting her hands together.

Silver and Sonic started to faintly blush a bit, while also softly chuckling.

“Thank you. We’ve been together now for almost a month. And it’s been…” Sonic started to say.

“Amazing.” Silver finished Sonics sentence, which made the blue hedgehog blush more. With more soft chuckling following it.

“Well I’m glad you two are having a wonderful relationship so far. I only wish for your love to last forever.” Espio said to them both, holding Rouges hand tightly.

“Thanks. We really hope it lasts that long.” Sonic squeezed Silvers hand “Wouldn’t that be nice marshmallow?”

“Yeah it would..” Silver squeezed his hand back. The two hedgehogs looking into each others eyes, while wagging their tails.

“Aweeee. You two are so adorable and sweet together!” Rouge gushed, continuing to watch the two hedgehogs act lovey dovey together. With Sonic and Silver blushing a lot more, holding each others hands tightly.

Espio clears his throat “Pardon me..but can we continue our romantic dance?” He asks, leaning over and holding out his hand to Rouge. Rouge giggling and taking his hand in hers.

“Oh yeah. Sure you two love birds can continue your romantic dance~” Sonic giggled, making a heart with his hands. And leaning near the two while having a cheeky smile. And nudging his elbow into Silvers arm, winking at him.

Silver then blinked a bit, before nodding when he finally caught Sonics drift. Giggling softly with Sonic, as they glance at Espio and Rouge.

“We’ll leave now so that you two can enjoy your time together.” Silver remarked, giving a cheeky smile at them as well. Taking Sonics hand and skating away with him. Leaving Espio and Rouge alone again on the ice in that spot.

The couple looked at each other for s few seconds, before shrugging and continuing to glide and dance among the ice. Enjoying each other’s company very much and filling the air with laughter.

Silver and Sonic were dancing and gliding around the ice as well. Doing many dances and tricks that were a bit more advanced than Rouge and Espio. With surrounding skaters watching the two couples enjoy themselves. Clapping and watching in awe as they pull off very intricate movements. Wowing the crowd over and over again.

The two couples occasionally crossing paths during thrift dancing and skating. With both Espio and Silver at one point picking up their lovers, holding them above themselves as they spun around.

Somewhere in the crowd of enchanted and amazed people, a pair of eyes was following the movements of the ninja and spy. Before disappearing into the back of the crowd.

Vanishing completely before anyone could even sense their presence.

Both the couples spun around one last time, before ending the joined dance with them both kissing each others lovers. With the crowd cheering, and some even throwing some roses at them. With the couples pulling away, and giving a bow for their performance.

“Thank you! Thank you!” Sonic exclaimed, staying next to Sonic. Who was no stranger to public attention and admiration.

While Espio and Rouge just quietly waves, holding each others hand tightly. Since they unlike the hedgehog couple, were not ones to stand in the attention of the public.

Catching their breath, both couples skated over to the bench. And sat down to relax after performing such complex and difficult dances. And to unwind with their lover next to them.

“Whew…that was certainly something huh?” Sonic asked.

“Yeah! Nothing like a good ice skating session to get the blood flowing!” Silver remarked, leaning on Sonics arm.

“Yeah…I can feel my heart beating so fast…totally worth it though.” Rouge replied, continuing to catch her breath.

Espio nods to agree with his girlfriend, breathing heavily as well. Trying to catch his breath as well, relaxing a bit on the bench. With Rouge reaching her arm around Espio, bringing him closer to her. With the chameleon blushing a bit at the gesture.

“You guys are excellent dancers! Like two beautiful swans dancing across a marvelous lake.” Silver says in a dreamy like tone.

“Swan queen and swan king eh? Sounds like something out of a fairytale.” Sonic remarked, nudging Espios arm.

Espio rolled his eyes and responded “Oh you two be quiet. You can be so dramatic about things..”

“Hey! You two can be dramatic as well! Mister “I need to restart all my training because I lost a fencing match!” Sonic shot back.

Espio turned bright red at that, and huffed a bit. Crossing his arms and looking away from the blue hedgehog. With Rouge and Silver giggling at their lovers fighting. Rouge moved over and wrapped her arms around Espio and pet him softly. With Silver swinging his arm around Sonic and giving him a kiss.

They didn’t exactly want to deal with a fight breaking out between them.

“Now now boys calm down.” Rouge started, while continuing to pet Espio. Who was still quietly grumbling.

“Yeah. Don’t get all grumpy now. Me and Sonic need to leave anyways to catch the musical!” Silver said, trying to make Espio stop grumbling.

Silver stood up with Sonic, and held his hand in his tightly. And looked back at the pair and gave a small wave.

“We gotta go now. It was nice seeing you guys! Have a fun date!” Silver exclaimed, waving goodbye to them.

“You too hun. Let’s see if you succeed in keeping Sonic from going crazy for sitting too long.”

“Oh I’ll certainly try.” Silver replied, before scooping up Sonic in a bridal style. Making the blue hedgehog produce a small surprised squeak. Before running off in another direction.

Rouge and Espio waved goodbye, before the bat then turned to the chameleon. “Shall we get going to our next date activity handsome?” Rouge asked, kissing Espios cheek.

Espio blushed slightly and nodded “Yes. Let’s move to our next date activity.”

“Can we visit the gift shop first? I saw an adorable fur coat that would look stunning on me!” Rouge asked, flashing her aqua eyes in a pleading way.

“Sure we can. We need to return our skates anyways.” Espio replied, while being greeted with another kiss from Rouge. Who was wagging her tail a bit.

Rouge took Espios hand and dashed over at the cubby shelf where their shoes are. And quickly put them back on, and placing the coats back on the racks. Before heading off to the gift shop to explore.

Stepping into the shop, Rouge looks around at the many winter themed items. Some things even being themed after the story The Nutcracker, which Espio liked a lot.

“So many cute items! They might not be gems. But I love a cute little plushie friend time to time.” Rouge gushed, looking around at the racks of plushies.

“What about this Rouge? Is this what you were talking about back there?” Espio held up a light pink fur coat, that had a snowflake pattern on some of it.

“Aweee! Yes! It’s so cuteee!” Rouge takes the coat, and tries it on.

“It looks amazing on you..” Espio trailed off, admiring his girlfriend in the fur coat.

Rouge gave some soft giggles, before giving Espio a soft kiss on the cheek.

“I’ll pay for it and then we can head off to our next date activity.” Espio said, giving a soft smile to Rouge. And taking her hand in his.

After walking over to the counter, Espio pays for the fur coat. And then the two leave the gift shop, and then leave the building. With Rouge waving goodbye at the bear guard still posted at the door. Who gave a bow and wished them both a good day.

Getting back into the car, Espio pulled out his list of things. While Rouge gets into the car and buckles in and turns the key. Getting ready to leave, and turns over to Espio.

“Where to now handsome? So far I’ve been loving this date!” Rouge remarked, her voice filled with enthusiasm.

“I’m glad you are having such a good time Rouge..” Espio said with a smile, before turning back at the list “Now to our next place. Which I think you’ll really enjoy.”

“Can’t wait handsome~” Rouge purrs, kissing Espios cheek. Before pulling out of the parking and heading on their way to their next destination.

After a bit more of driving, Espio keeps giving the bat directions to the place. Eventually the two pull up a small shopping block. Where a small building stood that was white with painted colors, that looked like bursts of paint was splashed onto it. With it having a tan roof. Rouge pulled into a nearby parking spot, and shut off the car.

“So…what’s this place?” Rouge asked.

“You’ll see. Come on.” Espio answered, unbuckling his seatbelt. And getting out of the car.

Rouge shrugged, and unbuckled her own seatbelt. And followed behind Espio after locking the car. Noticing her boyfriend being a little more excited about this place. Her giving a soft chuckle at his extra enthusiasm. Finding it absolutely adorable.

Running up to the door, Espio holds it open for Rouge. Who just chuckles and gives him a kiss on the forehead for a thanks. Before going into the building. With Espio blushing slightly, and then heading in after her.

Inside the building was a series of tables covered in white paper. With the wall behind them being lined with paint bottles and color swatches next to them. With many shelves lining the place with a ton of ceramic pieces waiting to be painted. With a variety of pieces, from small heart boxes to large detailed statues.

“Wow..” Rouge said, continuing to glance around the place. With Espio walking up to her and looking around with her. With him then leading her over to the counter where a black poodle stood behind.

“Hello. Me and my girlfriend are here to paint something.” Espio said, looking at the poodle.

The dog looked up at Espio and studied him carefully. Before giving a broad smile “Ah Espio. Here with your girlfriend this time? How romantic.” He said.

Espio gave a soft smile “Yes, I figured it was time to introduce her to this place. Because of how calming it is.”

The poodle nodded and then pointed to around the place “Just go ahead and pick what you guys want to paint. And let me know when you need colors.”

Both Espio and Rouge have a nod, before turning around and starting to figure out what to paint. There being oh so many choices to pick from.

“The question is are we both painting something individually or together?” Rouge asked Espio, who looked over at her.

“Your choice. I’m content with whatever you pick Rouge.” He answered swiftly, giving her a reassuring smile.

Rouge nodded in response, and then started looking all over the place. Inspecting many pieces that were all kind of shapes and sizes. With Espio simply following behind her, making sure to put the pieces back carefully when Rouge set them back down.

Continuing to walk around the place, Rouge kept searching the shelves for something to paint. Until eventually, she reached her hand towards the back of one shelve. And pulled out a large heart themed tea set. It having six tea cups, a milk cup, a sugar bowl, a large teapot, and a tray with six small plates to go with the tea cups.

Looking over the tea set to make sure it wasn’t broken. She then turned over to Espio “Can we paint this together? Pleaseee?” She asked, looking very excited.

“Of course Rouge. I’d love to paint this with you.” Espio simply responded with, smiling softly at her. And helped her pick up some of the pieces carefully. And moving them over to a table. And sitting down next to her. All the pieces laying on the table waiting to be painted.

Espio then waved over at the dog, who looked up and made his way over to the table where they were. Carrying a small notepad in his hands, ready to write whenever he needed to.

“Alrighty a fantastic choice. Now take a look on the wall here.” He gestures to the wall of paint and swatches “And pick out the colors you would like to use. I typically would start off with five colors. And I can always give you more if you need it. And remember colors can look different after being fired. We have some examples of that right here.” The poodle explained.

“Hmmm..are we going for a theme dear?” Rouge questioned, turning her head to face Espio.

“Depends if you want to do one honey.” Espio answered.

“Oh don’t make me have to choose. I have so many ideas. How can a girl choose!” Rouge exclaimed, doing a dramatic pose.

“What about doing gemstones?” Espio asked.

Rouge blinked and looked over at Espio. Thinking for a few moments she nodded “I like that idea. A gemstone tea set! Oh honey you always have amazing ideas.” She leans over and kisses him on the cheek.

“I’m glad you like the idea..” Espio muttered under his breath, as his cheeks started to turn red.

Rouge chuckled, and then turned to the poodle. “Have any color recommendations for that theme?” Rouge asked.

“Yes actually! We have plenty of colors that could perfectly match that theme. If you look over here..”

The next few minutes are spent with the poodle pulling down color swatches and showing the differences to Rouge. With all sorts of shades and hues that the bat looked through. Marveling at all the different colors and the look of them before and after firing the pieces. With Espio standing next to her, and picking out colors as well.

Eventually, Rouge and Espio had their colors all picked out. And sat down with their multiple pallets. And looked over the tea set.

“So what would you like to paint first honey?” Espio questioned.

“I want to do the sugar bowl. I have the cutest idea for it!” Rouge responded.

“Alright. Then I’ll start on the…creamer.” The chameleon said, reaching over and picking the piece up.

Rouge nodded, and then took her brush and dipped it into some paint. And began painting the small sugar bowl. Using soft shades of green to mimic the look of a gorgeous emerald. With golden accents and then painting it to look like it had cosmic cracks in it.

Espio took the small creamer, and took his brush and started painting himself. Him going for more shades of deep blues. Painting to look like a cosmic sapphire with touches of purple.

Looking over at Rouges project, he noticed the cosmic cracks she had painted on the sugar bowl. And he reached over and took some red paint and started adding cracks on the creamer. That looked like lava was leaking from the gem.

Rouge noticed Espios changes and giggled “Got inspired by my idea did you?”

“I found it very intriguing. Do you like it?” Espio showed her what he had painted on the creamer.

“I think it looks wonderful honey. I’m glad we’re going with this theme. It’s going to come out so good! I can’t wait!” Rouge squealed, before returning back to her painting.

The next hour was filled with Espio and Rouge laughing and talking with each other. As they both worked on painting the tea set. The bursts of color looking amazing on the ceramic pieces. And them both imagining and being excited at seeing how the pieces are going to come out when fired. And the colors are much brighter and gorgeous than in the painting process.

Espio was working on one of the small plates, when he looked over towards the direction of the window. That was infront of the store, the sky getting slightly more orange. Making him pull out his phone and check the time. Which read as: 4:12 PM.

“Wow…feels like the day went by fast..” Espio said, continuing to paint.

“Yeah it sure did. But I’ve been loving it Espio! You really thought things through for me…” Rouge replied, starting to paint a tea cup.

“I almost don’t want this day to end…do you have anything else planned after this?” The bat asked.

“I have two more things planned…I think you’ll enjoy them as much as you liked the other things.” Espio said, giving a soft smile.

“Can’t wait honey…” Rouge smiled and then continued to paint. Excited to see what the chameleon has planned for later. The surprise aspect of it intriguing her a lot.

Espio and Rouge keep painting the tea seat while continuing to talk. While the poodle sat nearby monitoring, waiting there whenever they needed more paint.

When suddenly the poodle looked up and titled his head. Espio noticing this, looked up at the poodle.

“Something wrong?” He asked.

The poodle studied something for a few seconds, before shaking his head “Ah apologies. I thought I saw something in the corner of my eye. It was probably just my imagination.”

“It is getting dark a little. Maybe it was a street lamp turning on? Or something like that?” Rouge suggested.

“It probably was. Please continue with your painting. I’m sure it was nothing.” The poodle said, looking back down at his phone.

Espio and Rouge glanced at each other, before shrugging and then continuing to paint. Them both dismissing that interaction with the poodle. Since it probably didn’t mean anything.

More time passed as they painted, with the poodle watching them. As more colors got painted on the white ceramic surface. Espio and Rouge taking their time and painting a lot of detail. Not daring to rush in any way.

Eventually, the pair had finally finished their project. And looked at all the pieces. With some paint getting on them. But they shrugged it off since they can wash it out.

“Wow..look at how beautiful they came out honey!” Rouge exclaimed, looking over at Espio.

“They certainly came out amazing. I love the theme we chose to work with.” Espio replied, placing down the last plate he finished painting.

“If you think they look great now. Imagine what they’ll look like when fired. All those pops of color are going to be so magical you two!” The poodle said, walking over to the table. And viewing the pieces very closely.

“I can’t wait to see the results!” Rouge squealed, showing a lot of excitement.

“I’m sure they’ll be absolutely magnificent.” Espio softly chuckled.

“Want me to take them and start the firing part? It’ll probably take a few days. But I can text you when they are finished.” The poodle offered, continuing to look over the pieces.

“That will be great. Just use the number I gave the first time I was here.” Espio replied.

Rouge looked over at Espio “Is this where you got those super detailed ceramic pieces from? Like that small hart dish you got for my birthday?” She asked.

Espio blushed a bit “Ah yes. This is where I got the dish. I painted it myself..”

“And it came out absolutely amazing!” The poodle added. And then turning over to Rouge “Espio is one of my top customers here. He loves sitting down and just painting for hours.”

“That dish was already so special to me. But now it’s even more special now knowing you painted it yourself! And didn’t just buy it.” Rouge exclaimed.

Espio blushed a bit more “I’m so glad Rouge…” he says, while looking down at the ground. His muzzle turning more and more red

Rouge then reached over and pulled him into a kiss. Which surprised Espio, but then he melted into the kiss. His wagging tail betraying him greatly. With the poodle chuckling, and picking up the pieces and placing them on a cart.

“Alrighty. I’ll let you know the results in a few days Espio. I hope you and your girlfriend have a wonderful rest of your evening.” The poodle then moved the cart towards the back of the store.

“Sounds good…” Espio tried to respond, him being unable to hide the flustered expression. With Rouges lipgloss being smeared on his face. Which made the bat giggled.

“You’re sounding a little out of breath there handsome~” Rouge cooed, enjoying the very flustered Espio.

“W-Well you do have the habit of taking my breath away- mm!” Espio is cut off when Rouge kisses him again. Which makes him blush even more, the red on his cheeks spreading to his scales. Changing to be a hot pink color.

After a few minutes, Rouge pulled away and softly giggled. While Espio sat there extremely red and flustered. Unable to speak any words at that moment.

“Well handsome. We better get a move on so we can finish the date. You said we have two more things to do?” Rouge got out of her chair, lightly poking at Espios arm.

Espio blinked a bit, and looked up at Rouge “Yes…two more things. And they’re quite close to this place. We won’t need to drive.”

“Can’t wait. Let’s get going now!” Rouge exclaimed, before grabbing Espios arm. And dragging him out of the store. Espio being taken off guard, and stumbling a bit due to his smaller height to the bat.

A gush of wind hit them when Rouge opened the door, and they dashed outside. With Espio closing his eyes when the gush of wind hit him. Before Rouge stopped near a corner of the shopping block.

“Follow me.” Espio said, waving for Rouge to follow him. Which the bat nodded and began following behind her shorter boyfriend. Always finding his height adorable. Despite him being a well trained and highly dangerous ninja.

Rouges ear then perked a bit, and she looked back behind her. Scanning the area carefully while continuing to follow Espio. Who was too focused on leading her to their next place on the date plan.

“Did you hear something?” Rouge asked.

“No? Did you hear something?”

“I’m not sure. I thought I heard some footsteps..”

“It could be you hearing our footsteps. Or maybe someone nearby.” Espio said, trying to reassure his girlfriend.

Rouge looked back at Espio, and shrugged “Yeah it probably was. It is dark out now, so maybe that’s why I’m slightly on edge.” She replied.

Espio gave her hand a soft squeeze and smile, before continuing to lead her to the next destination. With Rouge giving a soft squeeze back and just following him. The wind softly blowing behind them.

Eventually, Espio and Rouge reached a small diner. That had a very homey and friendly atmosphere. With Espio taking Rouges hand and leading her inside the building. And walking up to the counter. With Rouge marveling at the decoration of the diner.

It had soft and homey vibes, while having a modern twist on it. Rouge enjoying the vibes of the restaurant so far. Before turning back to Espio, when the person behind the counter grabbed two menus. And started to lead the couple to a table. With Rouge and Espio following behind them.

The waiter leads the couple to a table next to a window, with Espio sitting next to the window. And Rouge is sitting across from Espio. With the waiter setting down the menus and then pulling out a small notepad.

“And what would you two like to drink?” The waiter asked.

Espio and Rouge look over the menu, scanning the drinks area of it.

“Can I have some cherry tea?” Rouge asked.

Espio perked up “Since when do you drink tea?”

“I wanted to finally try it out. Since I know how crazy you are about it honey.” The bat responded, waving her hand.

“And what compelled you to finally try it after so long..?” Espio asked, looking over at Rouge with a eyebrow raised.

Rouge shrugged “Just felt like it honey.”

Espio sat there for a few seconds of silence, before sighing and just giving a shrug. Not wanting to over analyze anything on their date. Before choosing his drink to order.

“I’ll have some cherry blossom tea then.”

“Alright. I’ll go get that for you two now.” The waiter bowed and headed off to go get the drinks.

Espio and Rouge watched the waiter leave, before turning to each other. With Espio slightly tapping on the table. And Rouge slightly noticing the tapping and looking up at him.

“You okay honey? You seem rather tense.” Rouge asked.

Espio continues to keep tapping on the table, looking elsewhere. Seeming to be zoned out completely. With Rouge leaning over and snapping softly to try and get his attention. Which makes Espio blink repeatedly before looking up at Rouge.

“Are you okay?” Rouge asked again.

Espio looked to the side “Yes…sorry I just..” he trailed off.

“What?” Rouge raised a brow.

“I just thought I saw something in the window…” Espio finally said, continuing to tap on the table. Rouge looks at him with a look of curiosity, which makes Espio sigh. And take a deep breath.

“The truth is all day…I’ve been feeling some sort looming feeling. Like a warning of sorts..” Espio admitted.

Rouge blinked a bit “You have? Why didn’t you tell me honey?”

Espio gave another sigh “Because…you were having so much fun. And I didn’t want to worry you…”

Rouge sat there in silence, before sighing “Honey..you know I would always believe you. You always tend to be right when you feel things aren’t right.” She says, reaching her hand over and placing it on top of Espios.

“Yes but…I didn’t want to ruin anything-”

“Honey you’d never ruin anything for telling me your feelings.” Rouge cut Espio with, giving his hand a gentle squeeze. With Espio giving a squeeze back.

They then turned up to see the waiter bringing their drinks to the table. Before pulling out their notepad, ready to take their orders for food.

“Ah right food. What would you like honey?” Rouge asked.

“I’m fine with whatever you pick. I can’t exactly pick right now.” Espio answered.

Rouge nodded and looked over at the waiter “Maybe…how about trying the shrimp Alfredo? That sounds good to have right now.”

“Sure. I don’t know mind having that.” Espio said.

“Shrimp Alfredo for you both then?” The waiter asked, with Rouge nodding as a response. And then taking Espios menu and handing the waiter both of them. The waiter then bowed and left to go get their food. With Espio and Rouge left alone once again.

There was a bit of silence between the couple, before Rouge eventually decided to speak.

“I understand that you wanted this date to go off well. But please, if you feel like something is wrong.” She paused to make sure Espio was paying attention to her words. “Tell me please. You have a habit at sensing things before they happen. Good or bad. Okay honey?” She finishes, giving Espios hand another squeeze.

Espio nodded “I understand. I will tell you next time if I feel something is off. I apologize for not doing that previously.”

Rouge gave a sigh “Honey you don’t have to apologize. I just want to make sure you aren’t hiding any of your feelings.”

Espio nodded, and squeezed Rouges hand back. Which made the bat give off a smile. Making Espio smile in return and be thankful he had a wonderful girlfriend like her. Spending the next few minutes having some small talk with her.

Eventually their food arrived, and they both worked to start eating it. With Rouge commenting on the Alfredo sauce being really good. And even getting some on her cheek, which made Espio take a napkin and wipe it off for her. Which made them both giggle and blush.

When they finally finished their food, they ended up ordering some dessert as wel. With them both deciding to share a small lava cake. The gooey and warm chocolate being delicious to

them both. With Rouge even playfully feeding Espio some with her fork. Which made the chameleon blush a lot, but accept the tasty cake.

“Do you have to do that every time we have sweets?” Espio asked.

“Yes honey. Because I love the little flustered look on your face when I do it~” Rouge responded, feeding another bite of cake to Espio. Which made him blush again.

Espio and Rouge shared their heartwarming moments. Enjoying the cake and time together while laughing and smile. Until eventually the cake was all gone, and they were wiping themselves off with their napkins. Before the waiter came back and handed them the bill. Which Rouge insisted she paid, despite Espio protesting. But eventually he let her pay for it.

The both of them then got up from their chairs, and headed out of the restaurant. The night sky greeting them with a gentle breeze. Holding hand in hand as they walked.

Rouge then turned to Espio “So..you said there was one last thing planned?”

Espio nodded “Yes. There is one more thing I planned. That will complete this date.”

Rouge gave a soft smile “I’m sure it’ll be wonderful. Since you have given me such a magical day…”

Espio softly smiled back, and lightly squeezed her hand. With the bat promptly squeezing his hand back. With him leading her to the last spot for their date. Eventually stepping off of cold concrete, and onto lush green grass. He led her into the more forest parts of the town. Being careful to not let go of her hand.

They continue walking for a bit, with Rouge looking up at the night sky. Marveling the sight and smiling warmly at it. With the cold breeze blowing through her hair. While the chameleon continued to lead her through the forest. Taking one step at a time through the lush green grass.

When suddenly he stopped, making Rouge bump into him at the unexpected movement. And looked down at the chameleon, noticing his back spikes were standing up a bit.

“Espio? Are you okay?” She asked, trying to get his attention. With the chameleon just standing there silently.

“Stay here.” Espio instructed.

“What? Why? Is something wrong?-“ Rouge stopped when she noticed Espios eyes. Them being very focused and on high alert. As if he was trying to spot something. As well as his hand not holding hers anymore, and moving to move up his sleeve to grab a weapon.

Rouge stood there for a moment, trying to figure out why he’d be so on edge. Since just a moment ago he was completely fine.

“I’ll be back.” Espio stated, walking away from her before she could respond. Leaving the bat alone in the middle of the forest. Not sure what to do.

Should she follow him? She knows he's a very experienced and highly trained ninja. I mean, he's taken down robots twice his size before. So he'll be fine.

Right?

Rouge stood there trying to make up her mind on what to do. On one hand, she wanted to go help and make sure he didn't hurt himself. But on the other hand, he told her to stay there and she knows he can handle threats by himself.

But leaving her boyfriend alone to deal with a threat jsit didn't sound like her. She didn't care if he could handle himself. She never wanted Espio to get hurt in the first place. Or leave him to deal with threats on his own.

But again, he told her to stay there and he'll be back. Maybe it wasn't that big of a deal? Maybe he just heard something suspicious. He does have a habit of being on edge at small little movements. Even Mocha has scared him before.

Standing there, she decided to give it a few minutes. Maybe she's just overthinking about it. Espio can handle himself. He'll be okay.

Rouge continued to wait there. The minutes slowly ticking by as the wind blew through her hair. Her tapping her foot waiting for her boyfriend to get back.

As more time passed, Rouge started to get a little anxious standing there in the dark. Espio hadn't returned for a while. And she was starting to get worried.

She finally sighed, and decided to finally go after him. While also trying to push her fear down. Just hoping the chameleon was okay. And didn't get into any trouble.

Walking in the direction she saw Espio go, she looked around trying to find where he could've gone.

"Espio? Honey?" She called out, hoping she'd hear his voice soon. Hoping that she just overreacted and that he was fine. Continuing to walk through the lush green grass, with only the sounds of the night to keep her company.

Rouge suddenly stopped when she heard her shoe step on something. And lifted up her foot to check what it was. Only to freeze when she saw it.

A darkish red stain showed itself, with it having a slight metal smell. Which made the bats ears drop down.

Blood. It was blood. And it was slightly fresh.

She took a deep breath, trying to prevent herself from panicking. And instead focus on finding Espio, and not to the other looming thoughts in her mind at that moment.

"Espio! Are you there? Please come out!" Rouge called out again, her failing to keep the panic in her tone

Rouges ear then perks when she hears something, and turns around quickly. Scanning the area quickly to identify any threat that could be nearby. With her ears continuing to pick up sounds around the forest.

“Espio..?” Rouge quietly whispers, trying to see if he was nearby. Before noticing something sticking in a tree. And walking closer to the tree and inspecting the object stuck in the tree.

It was a kunai. One of Espios kunais. That Rouge recognized almost immediately.

“Don’t worry. He’s okay.”

Rouge is suddenly grabbed from behind, with something pressed against her mouth. Her panic and fear making her miss the sound of the of the ambush.

Rouge struggles against the figure, kicking and trying to break free of the grip of the person. With the figure barely budging and reacting to her struggles.

“Relax…he’s fine and you’ll see him soon.” The figure whispers into her ear.

Rouge keeps trying to fight back, but eventually begins to feel drowsy. And her vision darkens with her movements becoming sluggish.

Until she eventually passes out.

The world going completely dark for her. With the last thing her seeing.

Was two deep red eyes.

End Notes

Helloooo. So happy to finally be done with this. I don't think I've ever had such a long first chapter. And sorry if it seems like I rushing at the end. Been working on this off and on for a few days. And I plan on continuing it. Hope you enjoyed this regardless.

And sorry if things seem a bit clunky. I'm still trying to improve my writing. But I think I like how it came out. Yay.

Please drop by the Archive and comment to let the creator know if you enjoyed their work!